




SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

○ March/April 2011



THE 2011 ANTHOLOGY



SEE YOU THIS SPRING:  
DATES AND LOCATIONS

# WNY Young Writers' *studio*

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

## Sharing Our Expertise

### *A Note from Mrs. Stockman*

Communities that learn together can only thrive when all of the participants work hard to deepen and then share their expertise. This is how true learning happens! Over the last year, we've been fortunate to work with many young people and teachers who have found the courage to show what they know. These are people who understand that doing so is not about showing off or claiming to be "right" at anything. Sharing what we know with others is our responsibility at Studio. Giving away our expertise is a gift and a service. When we refuse to share, we aren't contributing as well as we could.

This can be a very frightening experience for those who are new to it though. It can also be hard to share if you've had bad experiences when you've done this before. How can we help people feel more comfortable sharing what they know and do inside of our community? Here are some things to consider:

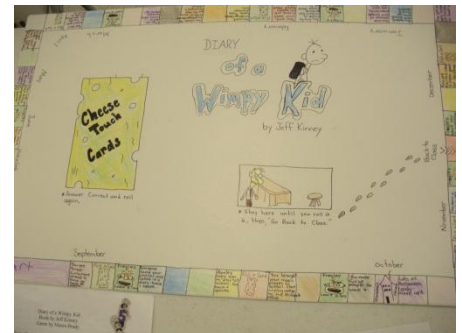
- When people share what they know or do with us, it is important for us to thank them.
- It's also important to show them how the gift they've given us is being put to use, so that they know they made a contribution to our own learning and work.

- Whenever we use or adapt the work of others, we need to ask permission first and make sure they know exactly how we plan to do this.
- When we come up with new ideas that are based on what others taught us, we must give them public credit for that. Always.

Taking care to do these things will ensure that those who write and learn with us feel safe enough to share their ideas and appreciated enough to continue doing so.

At our last Kenan Center session, elementary writer Maura Brady shared her expertise with us by bringing a board game to class that she designed at school. Since we were working on creating board games, we were so grateful to have an example of a completed one on hand to take a look at. This became one of the pieces of "mentor text" that we examined as we began drafting our own games.

When we meet in March and April, we'll be discussing several new ways that teachers and writers will be able to share their expertise independently or as a representative of our community. We're also gearing up for our summer sessions! I can't wait to see all of you soon.



### **Blogging Boot Camp**

All of the posts for our blogging boot camp are now available online!

Whether you joined us for portions of this as it was unfolding or you are interested in starting the challenge from the beginning now, know that all of the posts are archived here, and you may return to them at any time:

<http://tinyurl.com/62ro328>

## **A Second Reminder: Cheektowaga Central Welcomes the WNY Young Writers' Studio**

Those who have been writing with us at our Daemen College location are cordially invited to join us in our new home at Union East Elementary School on the campus of Cheektowaga Central School on Union Road!

### **Dates and times are as follows:**

Remaining School Year Sessions for 2010-2011: March 26th and April 16th

**Grades 1-5:** 9-11am **Grades 6-12:** 12-2pm

### **Summer Studio Sessions 2011:**

Daily August 15th-19th **Grades 1-5:** 9-12pm **Grades 6-12:** 1-4pm

### **Tentative Dates for 2011-2012 School Year:**

September 24th, November 19th, January 21st, March 10th, May 19th

## **Studio at the Kenan Center**

Our last official session for the year is April 9<sup>th</sup>!

We'll be meeting in the Taylor Theater Meeting Room and getting ready for our Celebration of Writing, which will take place on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am-Noon.

More details about this event and our upcoming summer sessions will be shared when I see everyone in April!



## Elizabeth Luick Shares Her Expertise

This year, different Studio fellows have published their work in this space, particularly those who have developed unique expertise that other writers and teachers in our community might benefit from.

At our next session, I'm looking forward to inviting all of you to do the same. I will be demonstrating how the writers who have been published here:

- ✓ Submitted their drafts for peer review
- ✓ Worked through the revision process
- ✓ Thoroughly edited their final copies

Before we meet, take some time to begin reflecting on how you've grown as a writer this year. What have you learned about yourself? Which strategies have you adopted as a writer? How can you share your own expertise?

Hi! I'm Elizabeth Luick. I will be 10 years old in April and live in Lockport, New York. I attend the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Mary's School in Swormville. I have been writing for about five 5 years. My favorite type of writing is a combination of realistic fiction and tall tale stories. I like this type of writing because it can be cartoonie, realistic, and written in my own unique way! Most of my writing is done in notebooks and on scrap sheets pieces of paper.

I enjoy thinking of story ideas. I get them by being outside and around other people. Seeing the scenery outside and seeing how people act inspire me. Watching my dad act about how much he likes fishing and water gave me the idea to write a story about an aquarium. Another time, I was writing outside with my friend and the sky was dark. This made me think of a dark place that I used to help me write a story about Transylvania.

I turn my ideas into a rough draft by putting them into a graphic organizer and then sequencing the ideas into a story. To improve my draft, I go back into the story and look for words to make them more exciting so the story can be more interesting. The complete time to write and publish a full story, depending on the length, is about 4 to 12 months. Once I start writing, ideas for the story keep popping in my head and it makes me want to put them into the story. After I finish one story, I take details from it and try to write a new story.

I have grown as a writer by figuring out new skills, like word choice, that help me to be more descriptive. A thesaurus gives me ideas for improving my word choice. Also, I have learned how a rough draft works. I use a rough draft to link my ideas together from a graphic organizer. These things help to build my writing skills.

If I were to help new young writers, I would tell them that being creative helps any reader understand you and your writing better. It is very important to be unique and yourself. It is good for a reader understand you and your writing so that they know what you are like.

I believe that a writer can learn to be more creative. Doing crafts and thrilling, fun activities can help your mind start to flow with creative ideas. Sometimes, when I make a picture frame the colors are fun and exciting and it can help me think of ideas for a story.

# The 2011 WNY Young Writers' Studio Anthology

Last year, we published our first anthology of works in progress. We will be doing so again this year, and copies will be presented to all writers who choose to submit pieces at our end of the year celebration. If you are interested in submitting a piece, please plan to do so by email prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>!

Remember, these may be pieces in progress, portions of novels or lengthier pieces, or even revisions of things you published in last year's anthologies (I think it would be wonderful to see how your work has grown)! Details and directions will be shared at our next session.

## We Need Your Input!

Each spring, Studio teachers and fellows come together to revisit who we are, what we hope to accomplish, and the new possibilities that await us.

This year, we'd like to hear from everyone. Several options will enable this. The first one is available online. Others will be shared face-to-face at our writing celebration.

Please consider visiting the link below and completing the survey that is posted on our blog. It will allow you to share your own thoughts and ideas and contribute to the vision we continue to shape. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

<http://tinyurl.com/4cac8l9>

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